IN THE CLAIMS:

11. (Amended) A kit for detecting the presence or absence of one or more of a plurality nucleotide sequences in a sample, the kit comprising:

a capture agent; and

a plurality of electrophoretic probes selected from the group defined by the formula:

(D, M)-N-T

wherein:

(D, M)-N is an e-tag reporter released from an electrophoretic probe upon digestion of the electrophoretic probe by a nuclease;

D is a detection group;

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M is a non-oligomeric compound consisting of from 1 to 500 atoms selected from the group consisting of carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, phosphorus, nitrogen, sulfur, and boron;

N is a nucleotide; and

T is an oligonucleotide specific for at least one of the plurality of nucleotide sequences, each T having a length in the range of from 12 to 60 nucleotides such that at least one nucleotide of T has a capture ligand attached;

and wherein each e-tag reporter of the plurality of electrophoretic probes has a distinct charge/mass ratio so that the e-tag reporters form distinct peaks in an electropherogram upon electrophoretic separation;

and wherein the capture ligand specifically binds to the capture agent to exclude undigested electrophoretic probes from the electropherogram.

12. (Amended) The kit of claim 11 wherein said formula is D-M-N-T and wherein M is a non-oligomeric compound consisting of from 1 to 300 atoms selected from the group consisting of carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, phosphorus, nitrogen, sulfur, and boron.

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15. (Amended) The kit of claim 14 further including a nuclease.

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17. (Amended) The kit of claim 14 wherein said capture ligand is biotin wherein said capture agent is avidin or streptavidin.

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18. (Amended) The kit of claim 14 further including said capture agent attached to a solid support.

19. (New) A kit for detecting the presence or absence of one or more of a plurality nucleotide sequences in a sample, the kit comprising:

a capture agent; and

a plurality of electrophoretic probes selected from the group defined by the formula:

C5

(D, M)-N-T

wherein:

(D, M)-N is an e-tag reporter released from an electrophoretic probe of the set upon digestion of the electrophoretic probe by a nuclease;

D is a detection moiety;

M is a non-oligomeric compound having a molecular weight of between 35 and 1500 daltons;

N is a nucleotide; and

T is an oligonucleotide specific for at least one of the plurality of nucleotide sequences, each T having a length in the range of from 12 to 60 nucleotides such that at least one nucleotide of T has a capture ligand attached;

and wherein each e-tag reporter of the plurality of electrophoretic probes has a distinct charge/mass ratio so that e-tag reporters of different electrophoretic probes form distinct peaks in an electropherogram upon electrophoretic separation;

and wherein the capture ligand specifically binds to the capture agent to exclude undigested electrophoretic probes from the electropherogram.

20. (New) The kit of claim 19 wherein D is a fluorophore, chromophore, or an electrochemical label.

21. (New) The kit according to claim 20 wherein said formula is D-M-N-T and wherein said plurality is in the range of from 5 to 100.

22. (New) The kit of claim 21 wherein said capture ligand is biotin and wherein said capture agent is avidin or streptavidin.

23. (New) The kit of claim 21 further including a nuclease.

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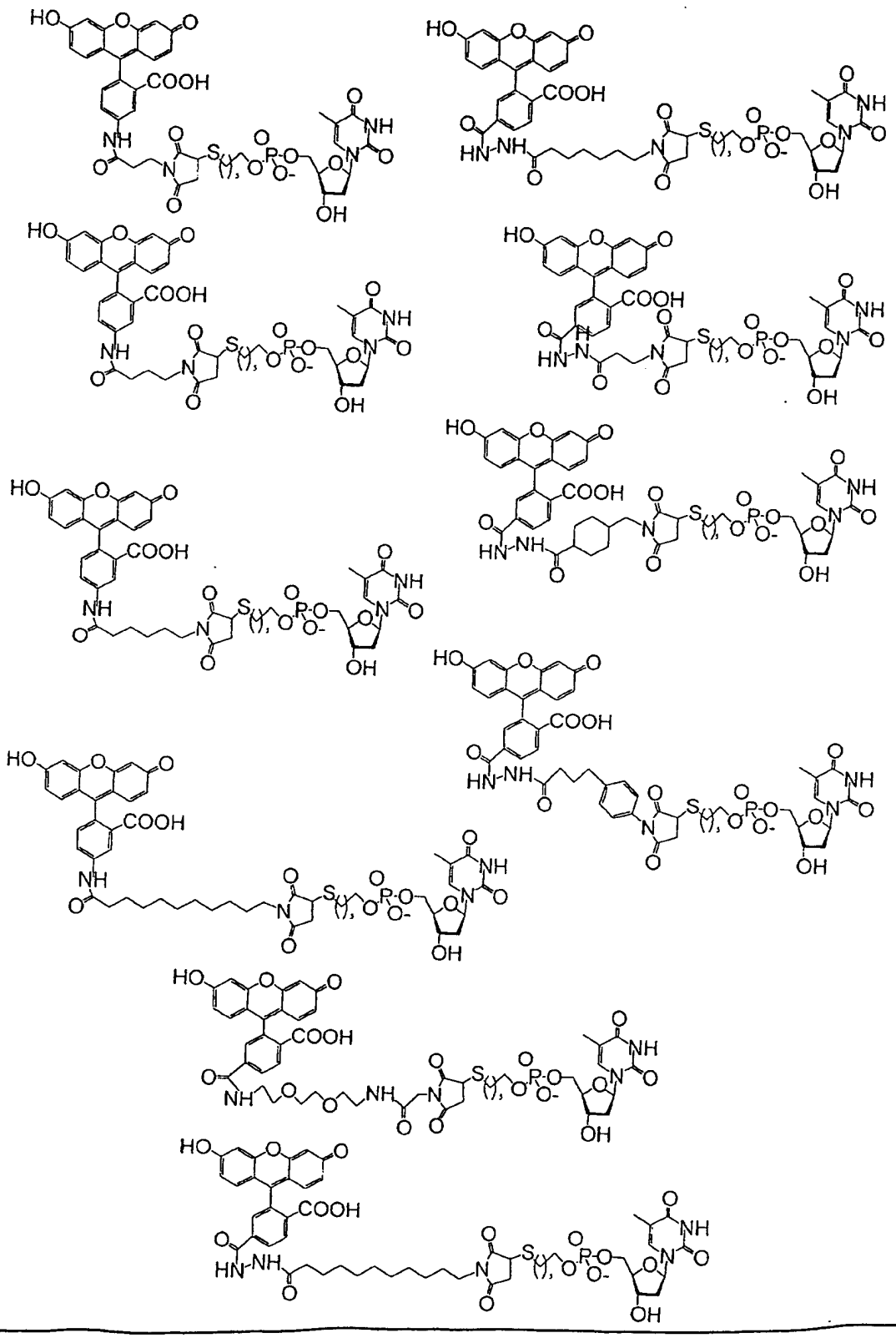
Cont.

24. (New) The kit of claim 21 wherein said e-tag reporter is selected from the group consisting of the following compounds:



C5 Cont.